

The Current

University of Louisville
Honors Program Newsletter

Graduation Edition

Quick Calendar

4/22-28 Finals
5/14 Commencement

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April 22, 2016 / Vol. 15, Issue 16



Honors Graduates

Honors Program Outstanding Graduate



Laura Krauser

Geography major

with an emphasis in Environmental Analysis

Social Change minor

From Laura:

“The University of Louisville Honors Program means so many things to me, as it was my foundation from the first days on campus at UofL. However, I cite the confidence as a student as perhaps the most important. From my social justice learning community and living in Threlkeld, the support I received from my advisors and fellow students gave me the conviction to take ownership of my college life. Honors not only facilitated consistent challenges in my coursework, but also the challenge to pursue fulfillment. It was here that I learned that interest in the environment and social justice could be more than hobbies, but integrated in studies and beyond. Through my Honors advisor, I found disciplines that I love (Geography and Social Change are the bomb. edu!), and RSOs to which I could dedicate myself. These topics were allowed to ripple through my life, and my enthusiasm was met every time with encouragement from Luke, Dr. Hart, Kirsten, etc. A byproduct of this fulfilling university experience has been happiness... plus a tendency for asking hard questions, following-up with professors and lecturers, and resilience as well as open-mindedness in this wide world.”

Top: Laura at Trinity College Library in Dublin, Ireland.

Bottom: Laura and her classmates in New Orleans, LA last summer with the Music and Place in U.S. Cities Honors travel seminar.



Arts & Sciences Senior Honors Theses

Simra Ahmed, *summa cum laude*

Amanda Allen, *summa cum laude*

Katlyn Brumfield, *summa cum laude*

Christopher Burns, *magna cum laude*

Zachary Dickinson, *summa cum laude*

Stephanie Dooper, *summa cum laude*

Jacob Edmisson, *summa cum laude*

Hannah Gardner, *summa cum laude*

Kevin Grout, *summa cum laude*

Moriah Horn, *summa cum laude*

Andrew Knight, *summa cum laude*

Laura Krauser, *summa cum laude*

Asim Mohiuddin, *summa cum laude*

Philip Moore, *summa cum laude*

Adria Neal, *summa cum laude*

Laura Patterson, *summa cum laude*

Jessica Ruikka, *summa cum laude*

Andrew Segal, *summa cum laude*

Jacqueline Sippel, *summa cum laude*

Natalie Smith, *summa cum laude*

Chad Stephens, *summa cum laude*

Steve Tran, *summa cum laude*

Paige Wilson, *magna cum laude*

James-Dean Wood, *summa cum laude*

Heegook Yeo, *summa cum laude*

Wenyuan Yin, *summa cum laude*

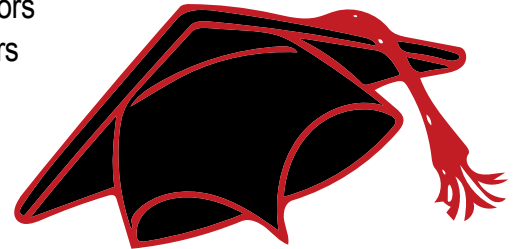
Honors Scholars

Simra Ahmed
 Amanda Allen
 Jenna Bach
 Pratik Bhade
 Christian Brawner
 Emily Brazell
 Austen Coles
 Chelsea Cornell
 Zachary Dickinson
 Stephanie Dooper
 Megan Durham
 Aaron Fieldhouse
 Michael Frankart
 Alan Gaines
 Ryan Gallagher
 Hannah Gardner
 Sarah Gregory
 Kevin Grout
 Jordan Haire

Autumn Halberstadt
 Ashley Hamberg
 Catherine Hankins
 Rebecca Healey
 Amber Hussain
 Kenisha Kelsey
 Sophia Kennedy
 Andrew Knight
 Abbie Kramer
 Laura Krauser
 Sabrina Lovelace
 Rachel Lyvers
 Grace Mahlbacher
 Sherrie Martin
 Asim Mohiuddin
 Philip Moore
 Jeannette Oropilla
 Kandice Roberts
 Jessica Ruikka

William Ryan
 Andrew Schmidt
 Lauren Schwarz
 Megan Seldon
 Jubin Shah
 Joseph Shaw
 Jacob Simpson
 Jacqueline Sippel
 Natalie Smith
 Jerome Soldo
 Landon Stalker
 Bria Staten-Favors
 Audrey Summers
 Corey Thomas
 Connor Tracy
 Steve Tran
 Jacob Trimble
 Victoria Walter
 Reilly Williams

Adeline Wilson
 Abigail Wittmer
 James-Dean Wood
 Delaney Wright
 Iris Xu
 Heegook Yeo
 Wenyuan Yin
 Mary Young
 Chloe Zoeller



Arts & Sciences Outstanding Student Awards

The College of Arts & Sciences and the Honors Program would like to announce the following prestigious awards for undergraduate achievement:

Woodcock Medal



James-Dean Wood

Phi Beta Kappa Outstanding Student



Laura Krauser



National and International Scholarship Opportunities

Breaking News:

Hannah Wilson Selected as Kentucky's Only Truman Scholar

Junior **Hannah Wilson** has earned a [Truman Scholarship](#), a prominent award given to just 54 U.S. college students this year and valued at \$30,000. The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation announced the 2016 winners this week. The prize recognizes college juniors with a record of outstanding leadership and community involvement who intend careers in public service. The winners will receive their awards in a May 29 ceremony at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum, Independence, MO. Hannah expects to use her scholarship to earn graduate degrees at University of California Berkeley School of Law in preparation for a career in LGBT civil rights. Berkeley's program will enable her to earn combined law and doctoral degrees in five years. Hannah, a McConnell Scholar and an Honors Scholar, is a political science, philosophy, and women's and gender studies major in the College of Arts and Sciences. She will graduate in May, 2017. Just twelve UofL students have been Truman Scholars since 1977, the year the national program was launched.

Photo: President James Ramsey congratulating Hannah Wilson



Conrad Smart Awarded Goldwater Scholarship

Junior **Conrad Smart** is one of only 252 students nationwide to receive a [Goldwater Scholarship](#) this year. The award provides up to \$7,500 for tuition, fees, books, room and board and goes to undergraduate students who intend to pursue research careers in mathematics, science or engineering. A physics and mathematics major in the College of Arts and Sciences, Smart is due to graduate in May 2017. Conrad is an Honors Scholar, a Brown Fellow, and a Grawemeyer Research Scholar.

2016-2017 University of Louisville Fulbright Recipients

The [U.S. Student Fulbright Program](#), a federally sponsored international, educational and cultural exchange, recognizes academic merit and leadership potential. The program promotes mutual understanding between U.S. residents and people in more than 155 countries worldwide. Fulbrights are among the most prestigious awards in higher education.

Christian Brawner, anthropology major and Middle East and Islamic studies minor, will graduate as an Honors Scholar in May 2016 from the College of Arts and Sciences with the rare distinction of winning both a [Fulbright English Teaching Assistant](#) grant to Jordan and a [Critical Language Scholarship](#) for Arabic (see below). He has recently been featured in the April 17th *Louisville Cardinal*, in an article titled: "Demonstrating the Power of Activism."

Christina Baker has earned a [Fulbright English Teaching Assistant](#) grant to Estonia. An Honors Scholar and a Vogt Scholar at UofL, is studying abroad this spring and graduates August 2016 from the College of Arts and Sciences with a major in political science and a minor in Russian studies. She originally applied for an ETA in Latvia; however when the opportunity opened up for a single ETA placement in Estonia, the representative for Eastern Europe asked if she would be interested. Her understanding of post-Soviet international relations and the Baltic States factored into her decision.

Hanna DeMarcus is heading to another of the Baltic States, Belarus, with her [Fulbright English Teaching Assistant](#) grant. Hanna graduated May 2015 from the College of Arts and Science as an Honors Scholar with an English and humanities major and a Russian studies minor. She was the recipient of a Critical Language Scholarship to Russia in summer 2015, and participated in the Startalk Russian Language Immersion Program at the Univ. of CA Northridge in 2013.

National and International Scholarships

Abigail Wittmer will spend next year in Spain as a [Fulbright English Teaching Assistant](#) taking part in a unique bilingual teaching program in Madrid. Not only will she instruct students in the basics of English (grammar and conversation) and American culture, her responsibilities include a content-based curriculum presented to students in both English and Spanish. Abby, a 2016 Honors Scholar graduate, has earned her degree from the College of Education and Human Development in middle/secondary education with dual certification in Spanish and social studies. Since early April she has been teaching Spanish full time at Mercy Academy in Louisville.

Chloe Zoeller graduates this spring with majors in Spanish and political science and a minor in Latin American Studies. She is an Honors Scholar and McConnell Scholar and has dedicated herself to volunteering with organizations that serve the Hispanic population in Louisville. The [Fulbright English Teaching Assistant](#) grant she has been chosen for in Colombia will provide the chance to teach at a university in a region away from the country's largest cities. She brings to this assignment near native proficiency in Spanish and eight years of experience tutoring ESL and study stretching from Argentina, Uruguay and Chile to China.

Jessi Dietrich is one of two May 2016 graduating Honors Scholars who will be headed to Malaysia as a [Fulbright English Teaching Assistant](#). Jessi's B.S. degree has been earned in economics from the College of Business with minors in international business and Spanish. As an undergraduate, her study abroad had the support of the College of Business for a semester in Madrid; and she was a two time recipient of the Modern Language Lewis Educational Grant.

Megan Seldon has also been designated as the recipient of a [Fulbright English Teaching Assistant](#) to Malaysia. This Fulbright teaching assignment does not start until January 2017. Like Jessi, she is a well-traveled Honors Scholar. Her time abroad includes two chances to work on organic farms in Italy; this should be perfect preparation for what is apt to be a rural base in Malaysia. She graduates in May 2016 from the College of Arts and Sciences with English and humanities majors, and minors in art history and history. Selected to receive the Wolfolk Thomas English Departmental Merit Scholarship in 2015, Megan proved herself to be a key player on our nationally ranked University Academic Quizbowl Team.

Shelby Lawson, a 2014 dual degree graduate from UofL with highest honors, has secured a [Fulbright English Teaching Assistant](#) position in Indonesia for 2016-2017. She has a B.A. in Spanish with a minor in Latin American studies from the College of Arts and Sciences and a B.S. from the College of Business in economics, plus a minor in international Business. As an undergraduate Shelby was a Grawemeyer Research Scholarship recipient and an active participant in the Honors Scholars program. She brings to Indonesia two years of professional experience in the Teach for America program based in a Spanish-speaking rural community on the border of Texas and Mexico.

Rae Hodge was the editor-in-chief of The Louisville Cardinal, a Legislative intern and journalist in Frankfort before graduating in 2013. Her [Fulbright Study/Research](#) grant takes her to Cardiff University in the United Kingdom. She will take part in Cardiff's MSc Computational Journalism program, which prepares early-career journalists to lead data-driven news startups. A non-traditional student, Hodge began classes at Jefferson Community and Technical College in 2009 and transferred to UofL in 2011. She worked with College of Arts & Sciences faculty to craft a specialized liberal studies degree in political journalism, believed to be the first of its kind at the school.

Jessica Eaton has been selected as one of two [Fulbright-Fogarty Fellows and Scholars in Public Health award](#) recipients, the first time UofL has ever seen one of its candidates accomplish this goal. She is headed to Lilongwe, Malawi, in sub-Saharan Africa to work at Kamuzu Central Hospital helping patients who have suffered brain trauma and spinal cord injuries. Jessica is a 3rd year student in our School of Medicine and expects to earn her M.D. in 2017 with special Distinction in Global Health. As an undergraduate she was in the inaugural cohort of James Graham Brown Fellows; her bachelor's degree (earned in 2013) was in physics and English.

Mackenzie Flynn secured UofL's 2nd [Fulbright-Fogarty Fellows and Scholars in Public Health award](#). Her destination is Kenya in sub-Saharan Africa to work at the Kenya Medical Research Institute in Nairobi. She will focus on prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission, and on striving to become a knowledgeable, globally-minded, and compassionate OB/GYN. Flynn, who has completed her third year in the School of Medicine, also expects to earn an M.D. and Distinction in Global Health in 2017. An Honors Scholar and a Jones Scholarship recipient as an undergraduate here, Flynn earned her B.S. degree in 2012 with a major in biology and a minor in Spanish. She has the added honor of being a two-time Fulbright recipient; she was an ETA in Turkey in 2012-2013.

National and International Scholarships

Ariel Weaver, our third Fulbright to Africa, has a [Fulbright Study/Research grant](#) to Namibia. Her work focuses on using remote sensing and geographic technology to look at patterns on the landscape and use that information to inform policymakers and stakeholders in the community to manage land more effectively. “The communities in the Zambezi region particularly inspire me, as they build community-based conservation networks— while balancing needs to support a growing population currently dependent on subsistence farming.” She has a UofL B.A./B.S. degree in Geography and Geosciences, and is now a master’s-level graduate student in Geography and Geosciences, expecting to graduate in May 2017.

Fulbright Alternates

Five UofL students are presently in **Fulbright Alternate Status** for the countries they applied to. They could become award winners in two ways: a candidate for the same country or a location in the same world region who has been offered the scholarship declines it; or additional Fulbright funding becomes available. Last year two of our ETA semi-finalists advanced to win from Alternate status, Markita Helton (South Korea), and Danielle Robinette (Brazil).

At the time of this publication’s deadline, our alternates are: graduating seniors **Matthew Jansing** (Asian Studies, Japan), Shacoya Kidwell (Caribbean Literature, Trinidad and Tobago), **Laura Krauser** (Agriculture/GIS Remote Sensing, New Zealand), **Jerome Soldo** (ETA Spain), and 2015 alumna **Jessica Williams** (ETA Portugal).

Two members of the Teach Kentucky program, which links a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from UofL’s College of Education and Human Development with full-time employment in Jefferson County Public Schools classrooms, await definitive news on their ETA placements in Brazil and Uruguay. Both received their undergraduate education outside Kentucky. Details forthcoming once the final awards are made.

Critical Language Scholarships



Photo: Arabic language instructor Khaldoun Almously, center, flanked on left by Anna Pepper and Christian Brawner and on the right by Jeremy Ball and Tanner Wright. All four students won Critical Language Scholarships for further study of Arabic.

The [Critical Language Scholarship](#) (CLS) is an overseas language and cultural immersion program for U.S. undergraduate and graduate students. The fully-funded scholarship aims to expand the number of U.S. residents proficient in critical languages while building relationships between people in the United States and other countries.

Jordanian native **Khaldoun Almously** has been at this university for just two semesters. In that time, his Arabic language classes have become extremely popular and are now an essential element of our Middle East and Islamic Studies program. Four of his students have won CLS summer immersion awards in Arabic. All four credit Almously’s language instruction—plus his ability to weave a bit of history and culture into his curriculum—with their success in earning the award. His experience as a CLS Arabic national review selection panelist while on the faculty of Western Kentucky University provided unique insights he passed on to his students about what a successful CLS application requires.

Junior **Jeremy Ball** has received a Critical Language Scholarship to study at Noor Majan Training Institute in Ibrī, Oman. He

National and International Scholarships

will be immersed in local culture, stay with a host family and focus on mastery of Arabic. An Honors Scholar and McConnell Scholar, Jeremy balances two demanding majors at the University one in political science from College of Arts and Sciences and another in economics from the College of Business.

Senior **Christian Brawner** is profiled above as a Fulbright recipient to Jordan. His CLS takes him to Meknes, Morocco this summer for intensive study of Modern Standard Arabic at the Advanced level. From there he has a month he could spend traveling in the Middle East prior to taking up his teaching duties in Jordan.

Anna Cecile Pepper, a sophomore McConnell Scholar and Vogt Scholarship holder, will study Arabic at the Intermediate level based at the Noor Majan Training Institute in Ibri, Oman with her CLS. She is a double major in political science and economics with minors in Middle East and Islamic Studies and Spanish. The CLS will fortify her strong interest in American Foreign Policy.

Tanner Wright who is also a sophomore has received a Critical Language Scholarship to study at The Arab American Language Institute in Tangier, Morocco. As an immersion in the local culture, he will live with a host family while he works towards mastery of Arabic. His majors are history and political science. Two of his previous involvements have been with the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program and the National Security Language Initiative for Youth. Both grants are merit-based and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

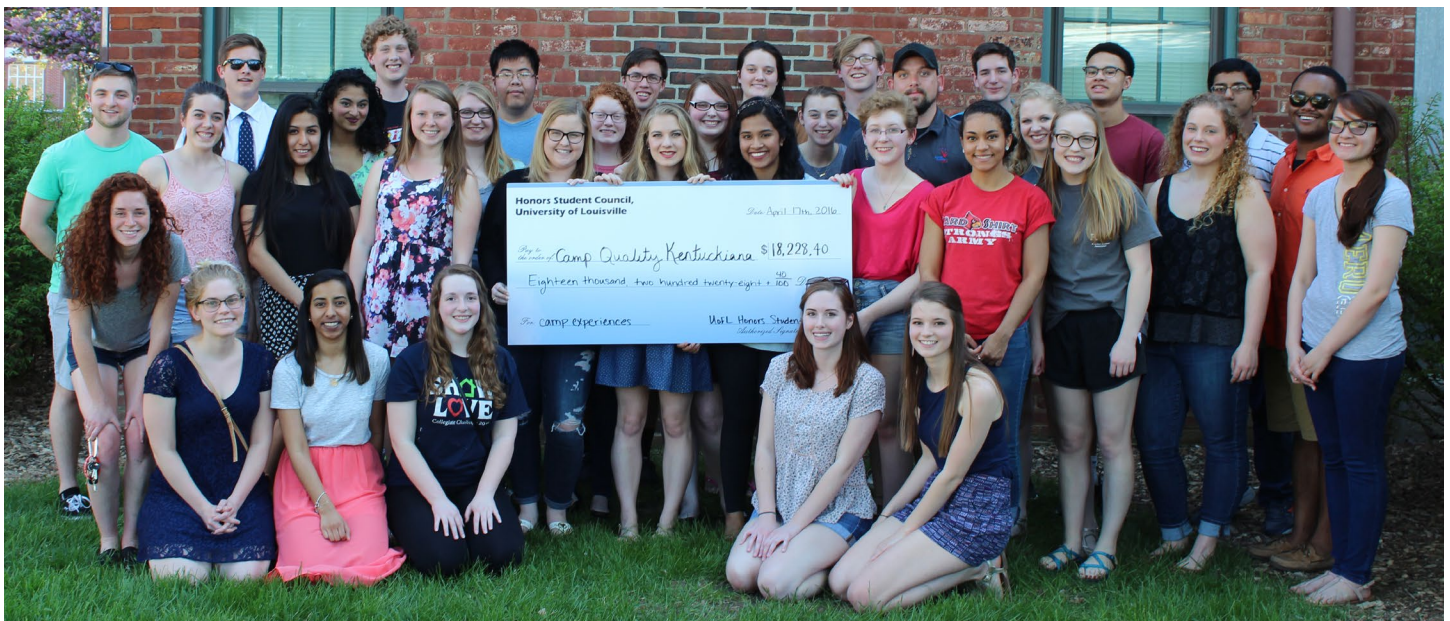


Student Organizations

Honors Student Council Raised over \$18,000!

By Katherine Armstrong

Two weeks ago, the Red Barn was stuffed to the brim with books, CDs, records, and DVDs for the biennial Honors Student Council Book and Media Sale (BAMS). We here at *The Current* definitely took the opportunity to feed our inner bookworms! The event was a resounding success, with the council-wide fundraising total coming out to **\$18,228.40** for Camp Quality Kentuckiana. Congratulations to everyone on council, and thank you to each and every one of you who came out to BAMS, trivia nights, bake sales, competitions, or any other HSC fundraising event this year! We couldn't have created such a sizable contribution without you.



The 2015-2016 Honors Student Council presenting the check to Camp Quality Kentuckiana representative, Eddie Bobbitt.

Event Review: Campout

By Jamacia Williams

On April 8, 2016 Honors Student Council, students, and Camp Quality Kentuckiana families convened in the SAC's Intramural gym to share smiles and s'mores. Campout became more of a camp-in due to the threat of rain, but you wouldn't detect disappointment on the faces of the young adults and children huddled together to watch Disney's *Inside Out* on the mega-screen. Honors students served attendees summer-camp staples: burgers, hot dogs, chips, sodas, and good ol' H₂O. Sweet popcorn and s'mores enticed participants at the end of their meal. A representative from Camp Quality Kentuckiana opened up the night with a thanks to Honors Student Council for its year of events benefiting future campers. This event celebrated the success of the Book and Media Sale, a fundraiser to send children with cancer to Camp Quality over the summer. Two adorable and soft-spoken young campers also shared their gratitude before the film. Watching Disney with bellies full of sugar serves as a reminder of the innocence of childhood, a privilege every youth should be able to enjoy.

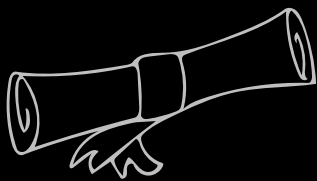


(Left) Student enjoy watching the movie on the inflatable screen. (Right) Despite the inclement weather outside, students found their way to the SAC Intramural Gym to celebrate with HSC. Photo credits: Jamacia Williams and Katherine Armstrong.

Photo Review: CarniVILLE



Top:(Left) Alice Darling, the new President of HSC, after her time in the dunk tank. (Right) There was a great turnout despite the cloudy day! Middle: Rubber ducks from one of the games. Bottom: (Left) Students blew bubbles to blow off steam. (Middle) Rupika Narain manages the dunk tank. (Right) HSC freshman representatives test their ring-toss skills.



From Our Friends

Finals Blitz

Now through Wednesday, April 27

Various Locations

It's your last chance to boost your grades—have some fun in the process! Join REACH, University Libraries, FYI, and many other campus organizations for free food, test-review sessions, and a host of other fun events to get you ready for finals. Visit <http://reach.louisville.edu/tutoring/finalsblitz/> for more information.

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta

Sunday, May 8 • 1:00-9:00 PM

Fourth Street Live

A new event with the Official Kentucky Derby, the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta is a celebration of Mexican history and heritage. Expect live performances from Appalatin, Cosa Seria and Salsa Rhythms, not to mention food and a piñata contest! Volunteers are desperately needed for this event. The event is from 1-9pm, however volunteers are not obligated to stay the entire time. If you are interested in volunteering please contact: rhondabuchanan@louisville.edu

ABI Social Justice Research Award

Deadline: Thursday, April 28 by 4 PM

ABI - Ekstrom Library, rm. 258

The University of Louisville's Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research is sponsoring its 9th annual Social Justice Research Paper Awards. Students from any discipline are encouraged to apply. **Requirements:** Engage one or more social justice topics. Preference given to papers engaging race, class, gender, sexuality, religion, peace/conflict, environmentalism, disability, and/or age. Papers do not have to be about Anne Braden. Undergraduates must use at least one source from Braden Institute reading room and/or the Braden Papers in University Archives. Graduate students should use books and paper collection if relevant to research topic. Paper must be 8-25 pages in length, not including reference pages. Winning papers announced: Tuesday, May 10, 2016

\$300 For Best Graduate Essay

\$100 Each For Two Best Undergraduate Essays

Next Year Ditch Your Car and Earn-A-Bike!

Deadline: August 10, 2016

Save money. Get fit. Make friends. Protect the planet. Next year ditch your car and try these alternatives:

1. Earn-A-Bike Program: Give up your right to a UofL parking permit for 2 years & earn a \$400 bike shop voucher! Apply by Aug. 10, 2016 at tinyurl.com/EarnABike
2. Ride the entire TARC bus system free, anywhere, anytime by showing the driver your UofL ID: ridetarc.org
3. Carpool with Cards: Use our free, secure social network to quickly connect with others offering or needing rides in town, home for breaks, or wherever: www.zimride.com/louisville
4. UofL BikeShare: Free daily bike check-out from 11 campus locations!
5. UofL CarShare: Anyone 18+ can rent hourly from our campus fleet – join by April 30th for just \$1! www.enterprise-carshare.com

For more information on all of these options visit: <http://bit.ly/1SVCeNI>

Paid UofL Sustainability Internships this Summer & Next Year

Deadline: August 15, 2016

Have a passion for sustainability & want to help advance environmental, social & economic stewardship on campus? UofL's Sustainability Council will offer paid internships for students returning in 2016-17, with some positions available starting summer 2016. Interns will work about 10 hrs/wk throughout the year on tangible projects developed with supervisors from the Council. Positions will include: Garden & Farmers Market Intern (open immediately), Bike Mechanic (open immediately), Community Composting, Zero Waste, and others TBA. Apply by August 25th. Details and application instructions: <http://bit.ly/1VqlqVu>

The Current Student Writers



Jamacia Williams is a first-year English major, and U.S. Army brat who's touched down all over the south-eastern U.S. and Germany before finding herself in Louisville. A free spirit at heart, she enjoys writing poetry, dancing without coordination, and exploring new places. She is an aspiring singer/lyricist but until her big break, she studies English and Creative Writing at the University of Louisville.

Read her article on page 8!



Katherine Armstrong is a junior Biology major, hoping to go to veterinary school after graduation. She enjoys reading, playing video games, and being snarky.

Read her article on page 7!